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10/527,873

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EXAMINER

LEIVA, FRANK M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/06/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,873

Applicant(s)

CRUCIANI, GABRIELE

Examiner

Frank M. Leiva

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 10 recites the limitation "said transceiver at the predefined sideline area" in the claim is not supported. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The examiner, for the purpose of this action believes it to be "wherein the predefined area is marked by the sideline area of the game field".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by King, JR. (US 2003/0054905A1) herein after King.**

5. **Regarding claim 10; King discloses:**

- a. A sensor system for detecting a position of an electronically detectable ball, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

- b. An electronically detectable ball having a passive location sensor weighing less than ten grams, (¶[0045]), inherent to the game is the unmentioned weight of the sensor, which would have to be negligible so as to obeyed by the official rules governing the weight of the ball.

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c. A transceiver configured to detect said electronically detectable ball when said electronically detectable ball passes outside of a predefined area of a game field, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

d. A support structure configured to support said transceiver at the predefined sideline area of the game field, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

6. **Regarding claim 11;** King discloses, wherein said transceiver is configured to detect said electronically detectable ball with a spatial resolution that is equal to or less than a diameter of said electronically detectable ball, (¶[0014 & 0037]), where the sensors are placed within the perimeter to be triggered and at the position in which they are meant to be placed preferably according to manufacturers guidelines.

7. **Regarding claims 12 & 13;** King discloses:

e. An indicator means configured to indicate, when said electronically detectable ball is within a specified region of said predefined sideline area, (¶[0039]).

f. Wherein said indicator means comprises a mobile display means configured to wirelessly communicate with said indicator means, (Fig. 16 & ¶[0034]).

8. **Regarding claim 14;** King discloses an electronically detectable ball comprising a bladder, an "external covering enclosing said bladder, and wherein the passive location sensor, is completely integrated into said bladder, (¶[0045]).

9. **Regarding claim 15;** King discloses:

g. A system for detecting a goal, (¶[0013]).

h. An inflatable ball having a bladder and outer covering; a passive sensor located inside the bladder of said inflatable ball, said passive sensor weighing less than ten grams, (¶[0045]), inherent to the game is the unmentioned weight of the

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sensor, which would have to be negligible so as to obeyed by the official rules governing the weight of the ball.

i. A transceiver positioned adjacent a goal so as to detect said passive sensor when said inflatable ball has completely crossed a goal line, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

j. An electronic device worn by a referee capable of receiving a signal from said transceiver, whereby a goal is confirmed by the referee, (Fig. 16 & ¶[0034]).

k. An electronic cabin housing an official and additionally receiving the signal from said transceiver, whereby a decision of the referee may be checked, (¶[0007-0008]), where inherent to the game of football is the referee videotape review hut which were all the signals pursuant to a decision by the referees are reviewed.

10. **Regarding claim 16;** King discloses a transceiver positioned at least 30 cm inside the goal line, whereby interference from a goalkeeper or other players is prevented, (¶[0014 & 0037]), where the sensors are place within the perimeter to be triggered and in positions above and below the court so as to avoid player interference.

11. **Regarding claim 17; King discloses:**

l. A goal detection system for accurately detecting a goal in a football or soccer game, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

m. A transceiver positioned at least 30 centimeters behind a goal line so as to detect said passive sensor when said inflatable ball has completely crossed the goal line, whereby detection of the passive sensor is improved and interference from a goalkeeper or players is reduced, (Fig. 15 & ¶[0045]).

n. A receiver, worn by a game official and capable of providing a vibrating signal to the game official when said passive sensor is detected by said transceiver, whereby the occurrence of a goal is capable of being confirmed, (Fig. 16 & ¶[0034]), understanding that a signal whether it is visual or motion would be design choice, and that the wristboard performs the function of signaling all game faults to the referee.

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An inflatable ball having a bladder and outer covering; a passive sensor located inside the bladder of 'said inflatable ball, said passive sensor weighing less than ten grams, (¶[0045]), inherent to the game is the unmentioned weight of the sensor, which would have to be negligible so as to obeyed by the official rules governing the weight of the ball.

### ***Response to Arguments***

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank M. Leiva whose telephone number is (571) 272-2460. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30am - 5:pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FML

08/02/2007



Robert E Pezzuto  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3714